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Massachusetts Gaming Commission Seeks Public Participation Regarding Upcoming Policy Decisions

Commission Encourages Community Feedback Regarding Policy-Making Required for Phase 2 Regulations

Today the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) announces that it is encouraging public participation in policy-making decisions currently before the Commission. Many of these policy questions will significantly affect the drafting of Phase 2 regulations. MGC is requesting community involvement and professional feedback on such policy decisions that are critical to the successful implementation of expanded gaming in the Commonwealth.

There are many policy issues that must be resolved as a pre-condition to the promulgation of Phase 2 regulations. Phase 2 regulations are highly unique to Massachusetts as opposed to Phase 1 regulations. Phase 1 regulations address matters relative to the finances and integrity of potential gaming developers and are largely industry standard. A completed list of policy questions is located at www.mass.gov/gaming. Several examples of policy questions before MGC include:

- How will MGC define “surrounding community”?
- Should MGC have a formal policy that no host community agreements be executed or referendums held before an applicant has qualified through Phase 1?
- Will the Commission promulgate additional ethics or reporting standards for applicants and/or related municipalities?

MGC Chairman Steve Crosby stated, “We are dedicated to our mission of introducing expanded gaming in a way that is fair, transparent and participatory. To that end, the Commission strongly relies on open and frequent communication with communities and stakeholders as we lay the necessary foundation upon which to build jobs, economic opportunities and increased revenue for the Commonwealth. We eagerly urge residents, business owners and public officials to participate in the opportunity to shape outcomes.”

MGC will closely review all comments submitted by the public and will carefully consider those comments through the policy-making process. The public will then have an additional opportunity to provide comment on many of the policies through well-publicized public hearings.

As a reminder, the licensing of gaming establishments is proceeding in two phases. The licensing process is currently in Phase 1. At this time, MGC has officially issued Phase 1 applications which are due back to the

Commission no later than January 15, 2013. MGC will then evaluate the qualifications and suitability of a gaming license applicant, its qualifiers and other persons required to be investigated in connection with the proposed issuance of a license to operate a gaming establishment based, among other things, on an investigation of their integrity, good character and reputation.

In Phase 2, MGC will review an applicant's proposal for a specific gaming establishment based on statutory and regulatory criteria. Phase 2 regulations have an anticipated release of Summer 2013. MGC estimates the first license will be issued in February 2014.

How to provide comment:

Lists of the policies in question are available at www.mass.gov/gaming. Comments may be submitted online or by submitting an email to mgccomments@state.ma.us with "MGC Policy" in the subject line. **Emailed comments must be received by Tuesday, November 27, 2012.**

About MGC

The mission of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission is to create a fair, transparent, and participatory process for implementing the expanded gaming law passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor in November, 2011. In creating that process, the Commission will strive to ensure that its decision-making and regulatory systems engender the confidence of the public and participants, and that they provide the greatest possible economic development benefits and revenues to the people of the Commonwealth, reduce to the maximum extent possible the potentially negative or unintended consequences of the new legislation, and allow an appropriate return on investment for gaming providers that assures the operation of casino-resorts of the highest quality. For more information on MGC, please visit www.mass.gov/gaming or connect and share on Twitter (@MassGamingComm) or Facebook (www.facebook.com/MAGamingComm).